

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
August 16, 2004  
Meeting Hall – Town Hall

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Peter Charter, Dennis Frawley, Mark Leighton, Dennis Milanovich, A. Leo Miller, Michael Stupinski and Nancy Way

OTHERS PRESENT: Finance Officer: N. DiCorleto; Human Services Dir.: D. Crayton, Sr. Center Dir.: E. Graziani; Conservation Comm.: J. Gage; EVFD/CLFD members; Pinney House Preservation Committee: D. Roberson and others interested in preserving the Pinney House; Lawrence Associates Architects: A. Hossain; E. Santini, K. Santini

I. CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Milanovich called the meeting of the Board of Selectman (BOS) to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM: No one came forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. June 21, 2004 Special Town Meeting:

MOVED (WAY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 21, 2004 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES.

B. July 19, 2004 Board of Selectmen Meeting:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE JULY 19, 2004 BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD ITEM G, *PRESERVATION OF THE PINNEY HOUSE*, TO UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. STEAP Grant – Sewer Extension Project – **Tabled to September 20, 2004.**

B. Sr. Citizen Endowment Fund:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SENIOR CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND AND RECOMMENDATION TO CREATE A SENIOR CITIZEN ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE, AS SUBMITTED AND TO BE TO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

C. Set Town Meeting – Sr. Citizen Endowment Fund Committee:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (LEIGHTON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004 AT 7:15 P.M. AT THE ELLINGTON TOWN HALL TO CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A SENIOR CITIZEN ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE.

D. Crystal Lake Fire Truck:

David Wright (CLFD) addressed the BOS. He discussed the package presented to the BOS last month regarding the options for buying a new fire truck. He stated there is a desperate need for a new truck. It is vital to the Town's safety in the Crystal Lake area. Over \$16,000 of repairs have been spent on the current truck and the truck is only valued at \$20,000. Mr. Wright requested that the BOS move forward with this purchase, whether purchasing it outright or leasing. It will probably take nine months to a year to build the new truck.

Mr. Charter asked which option would be best. Mr. Wright said that there is no down payment required with the lease option. Several vendors have already been contacted. A five-year lease would require a payment of approximately \$75,000/yr. and the interest rate would be as low as 4% or less.

Mr. DiCorleto stated that whether leasing or buying the truck outright, an additional appropriation would be needed requiring Board of Finance (BOF) and Town Meeting approval. He suggested that the Town may be able to tie this purchase in with the airport sewer project, if approved, which may have a lower interest rate. Another option is to take out a five-year note which was done to purchase the EVFD fire truck.

Mr. Leighton said he would like to avoid a capital expenditure of this sort and bonding over a long period of time. This is an emergency situation. If the sewer project is not approved, much time would be lost.

Mr. Stupinski asked what the time frame would be on the sewer project. Mr. DiCorleto stated anywhere from December to March.

Mr. Charter felt the BOS should move forward on this purchase.

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A NEW FIRE TRUCK AT A COST OF \$360,000 AND TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF A FIVE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT TO FINANCE THE NEW TRUCK AT \$75,000 YEARLY INSTALLMENTS AND TO FORWARD THIS REQUEST TO BOARD OF FINANCE FOR APPROVAL.

Discussion ensued again regarding the best option for purchase. Mr. DiCorleto said the Town could go out to bid. There is no obligation to the Town to purchase by going out to bid. No appropriation can be made for this purchase without the approval of BOF and Town Meeting. Mr. Milanovich said going out to bid will provide a more accurate number as to the cost of the vehicle. Mr. Miller asked if there should be a cap on the cost. Mr. Milanovich felt that the cost should not be included.

Charter withdrew above motion. Frawley withdrew second.

MOVED (LEIGHTON) TO AUTHORIZE THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE EQUIPMENT AS SHOWN IN SPECIFICATIONS, NON-BINDING BIDS, SUBJECT TO BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL.

Mr. Milanovich asked if Mr. Leighton would amend his motion giving the Finance Officer authorization to go out to bid.

MOVED (LEIGHTON), SECONDED (CHARTER) TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER ON BEHALF OF THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE EQUIPMENT AS SHOWN IN SPECIFICATIONS, NON-BINDING BIDS, SUBJECT TO BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL.

Mr. Miller asked if a cost amount should be included. Mr. Stupinski said that you cannot go out to bid for a specific number amount.

Mr. Leighton said the bids should include outright purchase and lease purchase options. Mr. Leighton amended his motion as follows:

MOVED (LEIGHTON), SECONDED (CHARTER) TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER ON BEHALF OF THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE EQUIPMENT AS SHOWN IN SPECIFICATIONS, NON-BINDING BIDS, SUBJECT TO BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL. BIDS SHALL INCLUDE OUTRIGHT PURCHASE AND LEASE PURCHASE OPTIONS.

VOTE ON FIRST AMENDMENT – UNANIMOUS.

VOTE ON SECOND AMENDMENT – UNANIMOUS.

E. Crystal Lake Fire House Meeting Hall:

Mr. Charter said at the last BOS meeting there was discussion as to the feasibility of using the second floor rooms at the CLFD Fire House as a meeting room for the public. He suggested getting a quote from Moser/Pilon/Nelson Architects as they issued a report some time ago to bring the rooms up to code.

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (LEIGHTON) TO SOLICIT A QUOTE FROM MOSER/PILON/NELSON ARCHITECTS AS TO THE COST OF BRINGING THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE HOUSE UP TO CODE FOR USE AS A MEETING HALL FOR THE PUBLIC.

Mr. Leighton was under the notion from the last meeting that input was going to be requested from town staff, i.e., fire codes, ADA requirements.

Mr. Stupinski suggested input from the Building Official and Fire Marshal. Mr. Milanovich said the Public Works Director should also be asked for input. Mr. Leighton said the BOS should get input from staff first before obtaining quote from an architect. Staff should provide comments on the feasibility of doing this project and the estimated cost.

Charter withdrew above motion. Leighton withdrew second.

F. Additional Tax Relief for Elderly – Establish Committee:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE A PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY/DISABLED TO CONSIST OF FIVE RESIDENT TAXPAYERS.

Mr. Leighton felt the wording was not grammatically correct. Suggested changing the wording around.

Frawley withdrew motion. Charter withdrew second.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (WAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIST OF FIVE RESIDENT TAXPAYERS TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE A PROPERTY A TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY/DISABLED.

G. Preservation of the Pinney House:

Mr. Roberson addressed the BOS. A committee was established last month for the preservation of the Pinney House. Several public officials and representatives of the Historic Preservation Commission have

been involved to explore the feasibility and expense of moving the Pinney House. Also discussed was the feasibility of incorporating the preservation of the Pinney House with the new Fire Department.

The total preservation of the Pinney House would cost approximately \$400,000 to \$500,00. An application for a \$5,000 grant is being submitted to the State Historical Preservation Trust to conduct a preliminary study as to the feasibility of restoring the Pinney House.

Ms. Way questioned whether the grant application is practical, as there has been no report done as to the feasibility of moving the Pinney House. Mr. Leighton agreed with Ms. Way. Mr. Roberson said that he has received an informal verbal opinion that the Pinney House is structurally sound and could be moved. Mr. Roberson added he would request that opinion in writing.

Mr. Milanovich said he has asked Mr. Amwar Hossain of Lawrence Associates Architect to do an architectural study to determine the feasibility of this project. Lawrence Associate Architects did the original design some years ago for the new fire house. He has asked Mr. Hossain to provide a preliminary sketch of plans to incorporate Pinney House/Fire House. Mr. Milanovich introduced Mr. Hossain to the BOS.

Mr. Hossain displayed a sketch of the proposed new facility. He explained that the sketch is very preliminary and layout can be changed. The sketch showed how the Pinney House and the fire house would be incorporated. Mr. Hossain said there was ample space to accommodate the needs of the fire house. There are many possibilities as to the layout. Mr. Hossain said he met with Town staff last Thursday and received positive comments from staff. There are no major obstacles, but a lot more work needs to be done. He said that his firm will work closely with the Building Official and the Fire Marshal to assure compliance with all requirements.

Mr. Leighton said the objective is to save the Pinney House. He asked if the Pinney House would lose its character if utilized in a commercial setting. Mr. Roberson said that when the Pinney House is moved from its site, it will lose some historical significance. When compared to demolition, moving the Pinney House is an option to be considered. The Town has an obligation to preserve the structure in this community. The option has a useful purpose and it is the best alternative to demolition.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000 FROM THE TOWN ENGINEER ACCOUNT TO COVER THE COST OF AN ARCHITECTURAL STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF INCORPORATING THE PINNEY HOUSE INTO A FIRE HOUSE AND FURTHER TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF LAWRENCE ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS TO CONDUCT THIS STUDY, PENDING BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,534.58, AND TAX ABATEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52.65, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT.

B. Set Public Hearing – Trash Collection Fee Increase:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (LEIGHTON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE ELLINGTON TOWN HALL TO HEAR COMMENTS FROM AND PROVIDE INFORMATION TO CITIZENS REGARDING INCREASING THE TRASH COLLECTION FEE.

C. Open Space Land Acquisition – Wieliczka/Menthe Property/Set Town Meeting:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF PARCELS LOCATED ON PORTER ROAD, DEPICTED ON ASSESSOR'S MAP AS 144-004 AND 144-005, A TOTAL OF 53.8 ACRES FOR OPEN SPACE PURPOSES FOR A TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF \$107,600, 44% OF WHICH WILL BE REIMBURSED THROUGH STATE GRANT, AND REFER TO TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004 AT 7:15 P.M. FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Stupinski commented on the hard work and good job Mr. Gage has been doing in acquiring these parcels and other pieces of land on Porter Road for open space.

- D. Design Review Board Administration – Memo from Town Planner:  
**Tabled to September 20, 2004.**

- E. Human Services: Salary Increase Request for Rope Coordinator & Food Pantry Aide:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCREASE THE HOURLY WAGE TO \$1.00 MORE PER HOUR FOR CHANTAL HARACSY, *ROPE COORDINATOR* AND GERVAISE DESCHENEAUX, *FOOD PANTRY AIDE*, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES EFFECTIVE FIRST PAY PERIOD IN JULY, 2004.

- F. Sale of State-owned Land – Route 140:

BOS agreed that the First Selectman notify the State that the Town is interested in acquiring the State-owned land on Route 140.

- G. Budget Execution:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BUDGET EXECUTION PLAN FOR THE BOARDS', AGENCIES' AND DEPARTMENTS' BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-05, AS SUBMITTED. ( ).

- H. Ellington Community Forum on CT Metropatterns Report – CenterEdge Coalition:

Mr. Stupinski said he was contacted by the CenterEdge Coalition (CEC) through CCM. He was asked to facilitate organizing a forum regarding the CT Metropatterns Report. CEC is looking for sponsors for the forum. Being a sponsor illustrates endorsement. The forum is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Center School, if approval to use the school is granted. Whereas the buildout analysis that was recently done addresses just Ellington, the CT Metropatterns Report addresses the towns outside of Ellington and how those towns influence Ellington. The idea of the forum is to inform the public and seek their comments/viewpoints. Mr. Stupinski suggested that the BOS visit the website for more information at [www.ameregis.com](http://www.ameregis.com).

MOVED (LEIGHTON), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPONSOR THE ELLINGTON COMMUNITY FORUM ON THE "CONNECTICUT METROPATTERNS REPORT".

- I. CLFD: Request to Transfer Funds:

Mr. Pippin requested permission to transfer \$10,000 from the breathing apparatus account to the furnace account to replace the old furnace.

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TRANSFER \$10,000 FROM THE CLFD BREATHING APPARATUS ACCOUNT TO THE FURNACE ACCOUNT, AS REQUESTED BY CLFD FIRE CHIEF, PENDING BOARD OF FINANCE AND TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.

J. CLFD: Additional Appropriation to Repair Truck:

Mr. Pippin informed the BOS that CLFD received a bill in the amount of \$3,904.48 for another repair that was done to the fire truck. He asked for an additional appropriation to cover the cost of this repair.

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REFER THE REQUEST OF THE CLFD FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$3,907.48 TO COVER THE COST OF FIRE TRUCK REPAIR TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR APPROVAL.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: So noted.

VII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Personnel Committee

1. Resignations:

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MARY BERTELSEN FROM INLAND/WETLANDS AGENCY.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD ALLEN FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF GARY FELDMAN FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (STUPINSKI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MORRIS WEBBER FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.

2. Recommended Appointments:

MOVED (STUPINSKI), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DALE ROBERSON AND GERRY GILLUNG TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PINNEY HOUSE TO JULY 31, 2005.

MOVED (STUPINSKI), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT LEO ARNONE, MARY BARTLEY, YALE CANTOR, DORIS CRAYTON, CHANTAL HARACSY, TODD HARMON, EILEEN KOUBA, DIANE LASHER-PENTI, TOMASA RAVEN, SUE STACK AND REV. JEFFREY STALLEY TO THE AD HOC YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM TO AUGUST 31, 2005.

MOVED (STUPINSKI), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DORIS CRAYTON, EILEEN KOUBA, DIANE LASHER-PENTI, PETER MARTIN, NANCY NETHERWOOD AND BARBARA RIPA TO THE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS TO AUGUST 31, 2005.

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT ADAM BARBER TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED UNAFFILIATED TERM TO JANUARY 31, 2007.

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (STUPINSKI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT ADAM LeFLECHE AND ROBERT WAMBOLT AS ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO AUGUST 31, 2006.

MOVED (STUPINSKI), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JOHN RACHEK TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED REPUBLICAN TERM TO DECEMBER 5, 2005.

VIII. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS: None

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Milanovich requested that the BOS hold a special meeting to discuss the Buildout Analysis Report. He suggested September 13 or 27<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus of the BOS to hold the special meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

X. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: For the purpose of discussing attorney/client communication:

MOVED (WAY), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ATTORNEY/CLIENT COMMUNICATION AT 9:40 P.M.

MOVED (STUPINSKI), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO COME OUT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:40 P.M.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (WAY), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 10:40 P.M.